

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (original): A method for reducing the methane content in an off-gas stream of a gas-fired plant, wherein at least a portion of said off-gas stream is contacted with a plasma and a catalyst.

Claim 2. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein further the NO_x content of said off-gas stream is reduced.

Claim 3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said plasma is generated by the use of an electrical or an electromagnetic field.

Claim 4. (original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the plasma is generated by use of an electrical field of 1-100 kV/cm.

Claim 5. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the plasma is generated by means of an alternating voltage of a frequency of 100 Hz to 100 kHz.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the plasma is maintained with the aid of a partial discharge.

Claim 7. (original): A method according to claim 6, wherein the partial discharge is generated by use of a dielectric.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~

~~claims~~, wherein the whole off-gas stream or virtually the whole off-gas stream is contacted with said plasma and said catalyst.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~, which is carried out at a temperature of 300 – 500 °C.

Claim 10. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~, wherein said catalyst comprises Al₂O₃, zeolite, ZrO₂, Ga₂O₃, TiO₂, WO₃, perovskite or combinations thereof.

Claim 11. (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein said catalyst comprises γ -Al₂O₃.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~, wherein said catalyst is a three-way catalyst, which comprises Rh, Pt or Pd on Al₂O₃ support, if desired with additions of Ce, La, Zr or Ce.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~, wherein said catalyst is an oxidation catalyst, which comprises Ag or Pt on a metal oxide support.